Weavers in Carpet Industry

1555. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of weavers involved in the carpet industry;

(b) whether Government have a proposal for the establishment of a Carpet Weavers Fund; and

(c) the details of other steps being taken to encourage carpet production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No reliable statistics are available on the number of weavers involved in the carpet industry. However, it is estimated that 1.5 millions weavers are presently engaged in carpet weaving in the country.

(b) No, Sir. However the Carpet Export Promotion Council (under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles) have created a fund for welfare of carpet weavers by raising contributions to the extent of 0.25% of the total export value of their member exporters.

(c) In order to encourage and enlarge the production base of carpet in the country, the Government have started massive training programme. 437 departmental training centres in carpet weaving are functioning in various parts of the country. Besides 67 carpet training centres are also being run with the assistance provided by the Government to various State Corporations/Apex societies and voluntary organisations. Moreover, the Government have recently set up an Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadoni, which will conduct research on improvement of yarn quality by way of blending, standardising the process of dyeing and chemical finishing, providing computer aided design, suggest improvement in looms and methods of carpet weaving.

Inflow of Funds

1556. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of direct foreign investment accruing to the country during the first half of 1995-96;

(b) the amount of portfolio investment by foreign financial institutions during the same period;

(c) the amount of remittances to bank accounts by Non-Resident Indians during the same period; and

(d) whether Government have adopted or propose to adopt any fresh measures to encourage inflow of funds under each of the above heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) During the period April to September, 1995, Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Institutional Investment were of the order of US $ 939 Million and US $ 616 Million respectively.

(c) The inflows under Non-Resident Indian Deposit Scheme during the period April-September, 1995 were of the order of US $ 158 Million.

(d) A number of measures have been instituted since April, 1995 to further encourage the inflows of funds both under the various Non-Resident Deposits Schemes as well as under Foreign Investment.

Expenditure incurred on Committees/ Commissions

1557. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the New Delhi "Sunday Observer' of November 19, 1995 under the caption "The White Elephant for Committees, Commissions';

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) what is the number of Central Government committees/commissions set up during each of the last three years and the annual expenditure incurred on each of these committees/commissions; and

(d) the steps Government have so far taken to cut down the growing expenditure on these committees/commissions in view of the huge budget deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a), (b) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House *(See below)*.

(c) No Centralised data regarding the number of Committees/Commissions set up by various Ministries/Departments during the last three years is available.

Statement

On the basis of a review of the functioning of various Committees/Commissions made by the concerned Ministries/Departments, it has been decided that:—

(i) There should be a complete freeze on setting up of new Committees/ Commissions. Specific approval of a Group of Ministers would be required before any new Committee/ Commission is set up.

(ii) No intra-ministerial Committees or Groups should be set up where expenditure on TA/DA in respect of out-station members is involved.

(iii) The Committees in all Ministries should be reviewed with the approval of the concerned Minister with a view to reducing the number of Committees at least by 50%.

Production of Janata Cloth

1558. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile mills in the country are producing Janata cloth for the poor and weaker section of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) what is the production made by these Mills during the last three years;

(d) whether any subsidy to the mills is being provided by Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMALNATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Janata Cloth is not produced by the textile mills but on Handlooms by the weavers. It is produced by the State Handloom Development Corporations, Apex and Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies. At present 15 States are engaged in the production of Janata cloth.

(c) The details of production of Janata cloth by Handloom weavers during the last three years are given below:

Year	Production (in Million Square Metres)
1992-93	328.03
1993-94	249.89
1994-95	170.00 (provisional)

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India is providing a subsidy of Rs. 3.40 for each square metre of Janata cloth other than woollen items and Rs. 13.60 for each square metre of woollen Janata cloth produced and distributed.

(f) Does not airse.

Insurance Cover by LIC

1559. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Life Insurance Corporation has been able to bring only 23% of the population under the insurance cover after 38 years of service;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Life Insurance Corporation has been losing investment opportunities due to coming up of mutual funds; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that the percentage coverage of insurable